

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 04/08/2024

Time: 03:00 PM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: GM 0711 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, gubernatorial nominee, KEN KURAYA, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

Purpose of Bill:

Department's Position:

As the Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) Superintendent, I support Ken Kuraya's confirmation to serve on the Hawaii State Board of Education (Board).

Mr. Kuraya's 43-year career at the Department included working at the school-level, district-level, and state-level. In particular, Mr. Kuraya's decade as a leader in the Department's budget office informs his contributions to the Board, especially on the Finance and Infrastructure Committee which he chaired this year. I have worked closely with Mr. Kuraya on the Department's budget, facilities and operational matters.

I appreciate the commitment that Mr. Kuraya has demonstrated as a Board member since 2022 and his willingness to serve a three-year term. I support Mr. Kuraya's confirmation to serve on the Hawaii State Board of Education and urge the State Senate to confirm his appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of GM 711.



david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org
hawaiikidscan.org

David Miyashiro
Executive Director

April 8, 2024

Committee on Education
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee,

HawaiiKidsCAN supports GM711, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, gubernatorial nominee, Ken Kuraya, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

Founded in 2017, HawaiiKidsCAN is a local nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that Hawaii has an excellent and equitable education system that reflects the true voices of our communities and, in turn, has a transformational impact on our children and our state. We strongly believe that all students should have access to excellent educational opportunities, regardless of family income levels and circumstances.

The Hawaii State Board of Education (BOE) is a critical organization for public education in Hawaii, with significant responsibilities including but not limited to formulating policy, ensuring oversight and accountability within the public education system, and monitoring progress on the State of Hawaii Public Education 2023-2029 Strategic Plan. Given the magnitude of issues facing the public education system, effective BOE members should be able to critically review data presented by the DOE, set a policy agenda that the DOE, legislature, and community partners can rally around, and look holistically at how schools are preparing kids for great careers and lives in Hawaii.

We urge all appointees consider the following questions:

- How will you find balance between supporting our public schools while holding leaders and schools accountable when students are suffering poor outcomes?
- How can the BOE better harness public charter schools and public libraries as part of our education system, given that the BOE also oversees the State Librarian and members of the State Public Charter School Commission?

- How can the BOE better engage families and community members?
- What is the ideal process for collaborative policymaking between the BOE, DOE, legislature, and community partners?
- How can the BOE and DOE better target supports to students to close achievement gaps and long-standing inequities?
- How can our education system better harness the abundant non-traditional learning opportunities in Hawaii offered by local non-profits, employers, and community organizations?

We support the nomination of Ken Kuraya, as he has proven that he is an engaged board member who consistently speaks out in support of kids and families. We appreciate his leadership as chair of the Finance and Infrastructure Committee, especially given the unique challenges that have arisen for schools and the system in the past year. We also pledge to be a partner as he and the rest of the BOE work to improve outcomes for students and our broader state.

Mahalo for your consideration,

David Miyashiro
Founding Executive Director
HawaiiKidsCAN



Committee on Education
Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

April 8, 2024

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, and Members of the Committee,

This testimony is submitted in support for GM711, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, Ken Kuraya, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

As one of HE'E Coalition's priorities is influencing policy that affects public education, the Coalition staff attends Board of Education meetings on a regular basis. We continue to advocate strongly on family and community engagement as well as equity in education in our public school system.

HE'E appreciates Mr. Kuraya's work on the Board, especially as the Chair of the Finance and Infrastructure Committee. We expect that Mr. Kuraya continue to encourage the DOE to improve its operational processes so that we can have better optimization of time and resources. We encourage the Committee to confirm his nomination.

Hui for Excellence in Education, or "HE'E," promotes a child-centered and strength-based public education system in which families, communities and schools are valued and empowered to help every student succeed. HE'E works to bring diverse stakeholders together to harness collective energy, share resources, and identify opportunities for progressive action in education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Our support for this measure represents at least a 75% consensus of our voting membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director

Coalition Members and Participants

Academy 21
Alliance for Place Based Learning
American Civil Liberties Union
Atherton YMCA
Education Institute of Hawai'i
*Faith Action for Community Equity
Fresh Leadership LLC
Girl Scouts Hawai'i
*HawaiiKidsCAN
*Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance
*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
*Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars
*Hawai'i Children's Action Network
Hawai'i Education Association
Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition
* Hawai'i State PTSA
Hawai'i State Student Council
Hawai'i State Teachers Association
Head Start Collaboration Office
It's All About Kids
*INPEACE
Joint Venture Education Forum
Junior Achievement of Hawaii
Kamehameha Schools
Kanu Hawai'i
Kaua'i Ho'okele Council
Keiki to Career Kaua'i
Kupu A'e
*Leaders for the Next Generation

Learning First
McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds
Native Hawaiian Education Council
Our Public School
*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning
*Parents and Children Together
*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i
Special Education Provider Alliance
*Teach for America
The Learning Coalition
US PACOM
University of Hawai'i College of Education
* Youth Service Hawai'i
Voting Members () Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the Coalition.*

April 6, 2024

TO: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair Senate Committee on
Education

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice-Chair Senate Committee on
Education

Members Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Kate Stanley (retired)

SUBJECT: Testimony in support of confirming Governor's appointments to the Board of Education: GM 520, GM 710, GM 711, GM 712, GM 713, and GM 714

I am Kate Stanley testifying in my individual capacity in support of the confirmation of the Governor's appointments to the Board of Education (BOE).

I have retired once again and now volunteer to work on projects for the Department of Education and speak on other issues that effect the State of Hawaii. In past years I have worked as an analyst for the House Committee on Finance assigned to analyze the budget of the Department of Education and assigned to work with then Chair of the House Education Committee, Roy Takumi assisting in drafting Act 51 of the 2004 Session; and I have worked for Superintendents Pat Hamamoto, Kathy Matayoshi, and Keith Hayashi. I have assisted the superintendents with implementing Act 51, budget preparation, and working with the Legislature. In the course of these years I have had the opportunity to attend many BOE meetings including those of both an elected and appointed BOE.

Personally I have an undying commitment to public education. Public education and its improvement is an obligation we all have in order to secure the best possible Hawaii.

The reason that I am speaking for these particular appointments as a group is that I see them as a group bringing many diverse experiences and abilities to the BOE. They will create a strong Board that will move public education forward.

GM 520 Kahele Dukelow.

Kahele Dukelow brings continuity as she currently serves on BOE . Dukelow also brings the perspective of the island of Maui and concern for the Hawaiian community.

GM 710 Mary Hattori

Mary Hattori brings the perspective of the many Pacific Islander Communities whose children attend our public schools. Hattori's work with the East West Center and her other experiences as an author, poet, public speaker and philanthropist add to the diversity of experience that these new members bring to the BOE.

GM 711 Ken Kuraya

Ken Kuraya also brings continuity as he currently serves as an at-large member of the BOE. Kuraya brings his experience in working with the budget of the DOE. I have known Ken for many years having worked with him during my many years working full-time and part time with the DOE. His experience in administration makes his contribution to the BOE valuable.

GM 712 William Arakaki

Bill Arakaki brings; continuity as he currently serves on the BOE , a neighbor island perspective (Kauai), and the experience of a teacher, Principal and Complex Area superintendent. Bill also brings a certain grace and steadfastness to the meetings of the BOE. He is conscientious, thoughtful and kind.

GM 713 Wesley Lo

Wesley Lo brings his prior experience as a member of the BOE and his extensive experience in the health industry. As you know DOE serves students who have many physical and mental health challenges. I have known and worked with Wes since 2010 and know that he brings diligence, thoughtfulness, and persistence to everything he undertakes.

GM 714 Elynne Chung

Elynne Chung brings many years of experience; as a student in our public schools and at UH and as a Principal of Mililani Middle School. The BOE and the Superintendent have recognized that the middle school years are often the make or break point for many of the DOE students. Chung's experience with middle school will be of great value to the BOE and the DOE as they strive to improve the performance and experience of the DOE middle school student.

In conclusion I wholeheartedly urge that the Senate Committee on Education recommend to the full Senate confirmation of all the above appointments to the Board of Education.

Thursday, April 4, 2024

Dear Chair Kidani and Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Senate Education Committee,

I am writing in support of GM711 and to endorse Ken Kuraya's candidacy for the Hawaii State Board of Education (BOE). As a former school administrator with a wealth of experience working in the Office of Fiscal Services, Mr. Kuraya is exceptionally qualified to serve on the BOE and make significant contributions to the advancement of education in our state.

Mr. Kuraya is dedicated to supporting schools in their efforts to reach their student achievement goals. As a former school administrator, Mr. Kuraya understands the unique challenges and opportunities facing educators, students, and families in our diverse communities. He is deeply committed to ensuring that every student has access to a high-quality education that prepares them for lifelong success.

Mr. Kuraya's experience in the Office of Fiscal Services has provided him with valuable insights into the financial management and resource allocation strategies necessary to support schools in reaching their student achievement goals. His expertise in budgeting, financial planning, and resource allocation will be invaluable assets to the Hawaii State Board of Education as it works to implement and oversee the new strategic plan.

I am confident that Mr. Kuraya will continue with his high level of dedication and commitment to his role on the Hawaii State Board of Education. His background and passion for education make him an ideal candidate to help the Department of Education (DOE) meet its goals.

In conclusion, I support GM711 and Mr. Kuraya's confirmation to serve on the Hawaii State Board of Education. His extensive experience and commitment to student success make him the ideal candidate to provide the guidance and support needed for the DOE to reach the goals of the strategic plan.

Sincerely,



Sean S. Tajima
Campbell-Kapolei Complex Area Superintendent
Hawaii State Department of Education

GM-711

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 7:55:04 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linell Dilwith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

April 5, 2024

Dear Senator Kouchi and Senate Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Ken Kuraya for a second term on the Hawaii Board of Education. Ken Kuraya's dedication to education and his deep understanding of the current needs of our education system make him an excellent choice for this important role.

As a former educator, Ken Kuraya brings invaluable experience and insight to the Board of Education. His firsthand knowledge of the challenges facing students, teachers, and schools in Hawaii has been instrumental in driving positive change and supporting initiatives that enhance educational opportunities for all.

During his tenure on the Board of Education, Ken Kuraya has demonstrated strong leadership and a commitment to fostering collaboration among stakeholders. His advocacy for equitable and inclusive education policies has had a positive impact on Hawaii schools and has helped address critical issues facing our education system.

I believe that Ken Kuraya's reappointment to the Hawaii Board of Education is essential to maintaining the progress we have made and continuing to improve educational outcomes for all students. His passion for education and his track record of effective leadership make him uniquely qualified for this role.

I urge you to support Ken Kuraya's nomination for a second term on the Hawaii Board of Education. His continued service will be of great benefit to our students, educators, and communities statewide.

Thank you for considering my support for Ken Kuraya's nomination.

Sincerely,

Linell Dilwith, KMR Complex Area Superintendent

Hawaii DOE



April 5, 2024

Governor's Message 711 – Ken Kuraya

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Senate Education Committee

Please accept my testimony in strong support of the appointment of Ken Kuraya to the State Board of Education (BOE). He has ably served and should be reappointed for another three years.

Since July 1, 2023, I have had the privilege of getting to know and to work closely with Ken Kuraya on the BOE. He possesses decades of work experience in the Department of Education (DOE) as a teacher, vice principal, and 20+ years in the budget section at the State Office.

Because of his experience and background, he served as the Finance & Infrastructure (FIC) Committee Chair, one of the three BOE standing committees. In this FIC role, major issues such as school bus transportation, facilities, food services, budget challenges, fiscal matters, and more fall within FIC's kuleana.

He provided great leadership on these many issues. He devoted considerable amount of time in pre-meetings, to advise on multiple matters, and was instrumental in developing an Overall Real Estate Optimization (OREO) plan. This holistic approach will guide the DOE to accelerate the much-needed school repairs, the deferred maintenance backlog, and the large capital improvement budget and related projects. These challenges and capital improvement project lapsing resulted over many years, and the efforts to be more effective, more efficient, and at lesser costs have begun and will continue to be implemented with each passing month. Having Ken continue on the BOE will provide much needed continuity and institutional knowledge to achieve meaningful progress.

His leadership style has been very respectful and professional.

I kindly ask for your strong support for his confirmation. The BOE, DOE, and Hawaii's students need Ken's reasoned and balanced approach for the many critical issues that need to be addressed.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Warmest aloha,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Warren".

Warren H. Haruki

2667 Tantalus Dr. Honolulu HI
warrenharuki@gmail.com
808-534-7777

GM-711

Submitted on: 4/7/2024 1:14:04 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Disa Hauge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Monday, April 8, 2024 3:00 PM

Dear Chair Kidani and Vice-Chair Kim,

I am writing in support of GM 711 regarding the reappointment of Ken Kuraya to the Board of Education.

As a life-long educator deeply engaged in our education system and community, I have had the privilege of observing Mr. Kuraya's leadership and steadfast commitment to enhancing our schools and the well-being of our students.

With his extensive background as an educator and administrator, Ken Kuraya brings a wealth of experience and understanding of the complexities and needs within our educational landscape. Mr. Kuraya has consistently shown an unwavering devotion to ensuring that every student has access to the support and resources essential for their academic, social, and emotional growth.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Ken Kuraya for reappointment to the Board of Education. I have every confidence that he will continue to advocate passionately for the interests of our students and families with integrity, empathy, and diligence.

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of Ken Kuraya's appointment. Please feel free to reach out if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Disa Hauge

LATE

GM-711

Submitted on: 4/8/2024 7:01:14 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Earlyne Harada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing this letter in support of Mr. Ken Kuraya's nomination to the Hawaii State Board of Education.

I've had the pleasure of working with Mr. Kuraya in various capacities over the last 20 years, and he genuinely cares about helping to move the department forward for the betterment of students. He is fair and truly exemplifies a dedication and work ethic that is admired by many. His experience at the school level, as well as his experience at the state administration level with the Hawaii DOE, has given him an extensive breadth of knowledge that will serve him well as a member of the Board of Education.

Thank you.